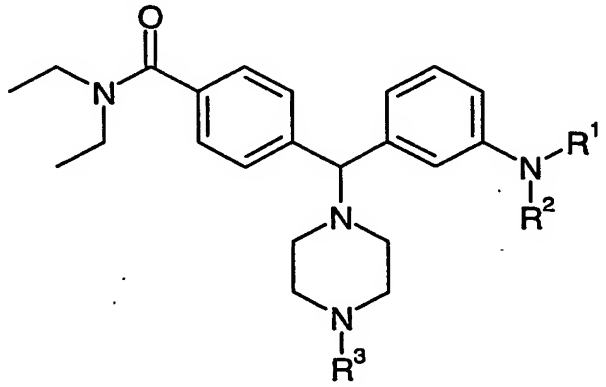
What is claimed is :

1. A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



I

wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, R^8-C(=O)-, R^8-$S(=O)_2$-, R^8-S(=O)-, R^8-NHC(=O)-, R^8-C(=S)- and R^8-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-9}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl used in defining R^1 and R^8 are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, $-NO_2$, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, $-CF_3$, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, $-NH_2$, -SH, -NHR, $-NR_2$, -SR, $-SO_3H$, $-SO_2R$, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, $-C(=O)NR_2$, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl and phenyl;

R^2 is selected from -H and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, and halogen; and

R^3 is selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R^2 is selected from –H and C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^3 is selected from –H and C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

3. A compound according to claim 2,

wherein R^1 is R^9-CH_2-, wherein R^9 is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen; and

R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen.

4. A compound according to claim 3,

wherein R^9 is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, $-CF_3$, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

5. A compound according to claim 4, wherein

wherein R^9 is selected from benzyl, phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl and thiazolyl.

6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally

substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R^2 is –H or C_{1-3}alkyl; and

R^3 is –H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen.

7. A compound according to claim 6, wherein

R^1 is selected from 1-propyl, 2-propyl, 1-butyl, 2-butyl, t-butyl, 2-methyl-1-propyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, cycloheptyl, cyclooctyl, and cyclononyl;

R^2 is selected from –H, methyl, ethyl, 1-propyl and 2-propyl; and

R^3 is selected from –H, methyl, ethyl, allyl, 3,3-dimethyl-allyl, cyclopropylmethyl, 2-methoxy-ethyl, and 3-methoxy-1-propyl.

8. A compound according to claim 1, wherein

R^1 is selected from R^8-C(=O)-, R^8-$S(=O)_2$-, R^8-S(=O)-, R^8-NHC(=O)-, R^8-C(=S)- and R^8-NH-C(=S)-, wherein R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen;

R^2 is –H; and

R^3 is selected from –H and C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-.

9. A compound according to claim 8, wherein

R^8 is selected from phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl, wherein said phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl and cyclohexyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from methyl, methoxy and halogen.

10. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(1,3-thiazol-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-2-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(benzylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((R)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-((S)-piperazin-1-yl{3-[(thien-3-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}methyl)benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-furylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(*R*)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-piperazin-1-yl(3-{[4-trifluoromethyl)benzyl]amino}phenyl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclopentylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohex-1-en-1-ylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[methyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[ethyl(phenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylmethyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cyclopentylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(cyclononylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(4-methylphenyl)amino]phenyl} (piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(3-chlorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(2-fluorophenyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-[3-(benzoylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(benzoylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(2-methyl-2-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-(3-{[(3-fluorophenyl)acetyl]amino}phenyl)(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(R)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(benzylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(phenylsulfonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilinocarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
4-[(R)-{3-[(anilinocarbonothioyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
4-[(*S*)-[3-(dipropylamino)phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-1-piperazinyl[3-(propylamino)phenyl]methyl]benz-amide;
4-[(*R*)-[3-(dipropylamino)phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-1-piperazinyl[3-[[[4-(3-pyridinyl)phenyl]methyl]-amino]phenyl]methyl]benzamide;
N,N-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-[3-[[[4-(1*H*-imidazol-1-yl)phenyl]methyl]amino]-phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*S*)-1-piperazinyl[3-[(2-quinolinylmethyl)amino]phenyl]-methyl]benzamide;

4-[(*R*)-[3-[(2,2-diphenylethyl)amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(*R*)-[3-[[[4-(1,1-dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[3-[[(4-phenoxyphenyl)methyl]amino]phenyl]-1-piperazinylmethyl]benzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

4-{(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(2-methoxyethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}-*N*,*N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-{(R)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(3-methoxypropyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-methoxyethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propylamino)-phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methoxypropyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-(propyl-amino)phenyl]methyl]benzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(cycloheptylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(cyclooctylamino)phenyl](piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

N,N-diethyl-4-[(S)-{3-[(3-phenylpropanoyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]benzamide;

4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-[(*R*)-(3-aminophenyl)[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(2-propenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;

N,*N*-diethyl-4-[(*R*)-[4-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-benzamide;

4-[(*R*)-[4-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-piperazinyl][3-[(2-thienylmethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-*N*,*N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-{(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl][4-(cyclopropylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-propylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl](4-ethylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-{(S)-(4-allylpiperazin-1-yl)[3-(cyclohexylamino)phenyl]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[(cyclohexylacetyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(S)-{3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-[(R)-{3-[cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]phenyl}(piperazin-1-yl)methyl]-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

enantiomers thereof; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

11. A compound according to any one of claims 1-10 for use as a medicament.

12. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-10 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders.

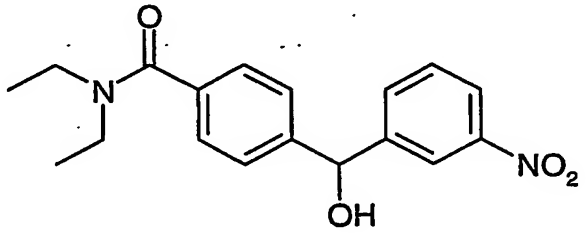
13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-10.

15. A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-10.

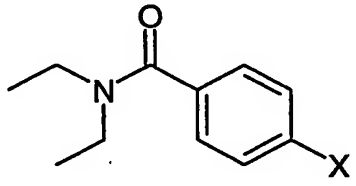
16. A method for the therapy of anxiety in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-10.

17. A process for preparing a compound of formula II, comprising:



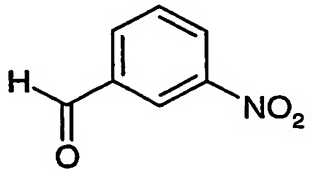
II

a) reacting a compound of formula III:



III

with a compound of formula IV



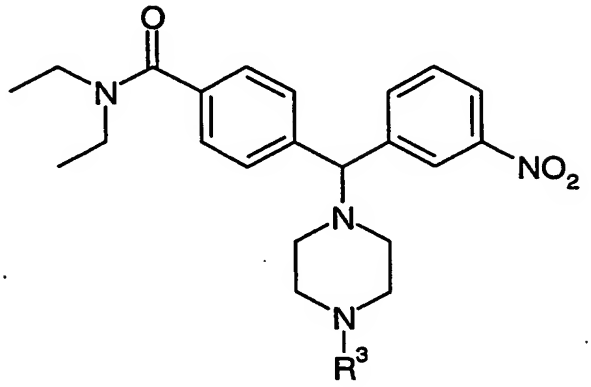
IV

in the presence of a base having a pKa of more than 15

wherein

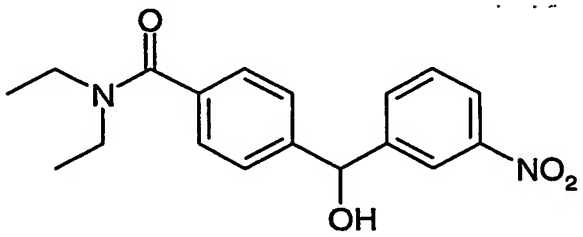
X is a halogen.

18. A process for preparing a compound of formula VI:



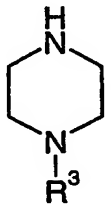
VI,

comprising: reacting a compound of formula II



II

with a compound of formula VII



VII

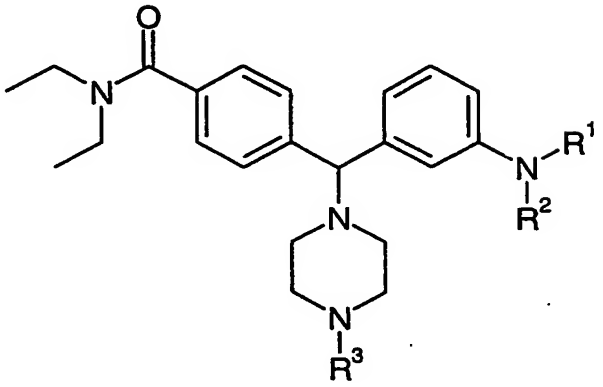
in the presence of SOX_2 to form the compound of formula VI,

wherein

R^3 is selected from -H, C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen; and

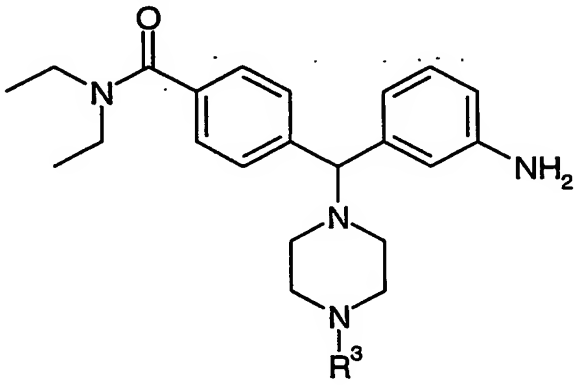
X is halogen.

19. A process for preparing a compound of formula I,



I

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

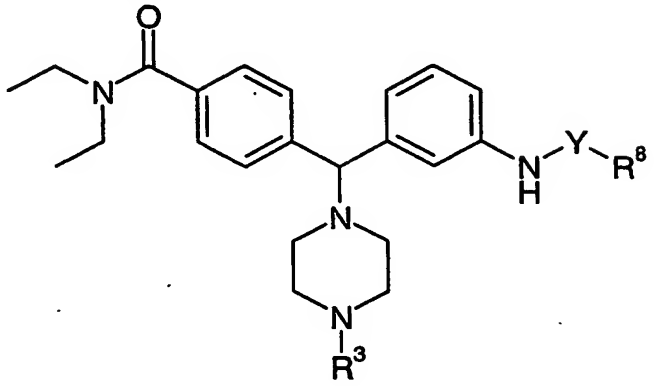
with R^9-CHO in the presence of a reducing agent to form the compound of formula I: wherein

R^1 is R^9-CH_2-, wherein R^9 is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, N-oxido-pyridyl, benzyl, pyridylmethyl, thienylmethyl, furylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, triazolylmethyl, pyrrolylmethyl, thiazolylmethyl and N-oxido-pyridylmethyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy and halogen;

R^2 is -H; and

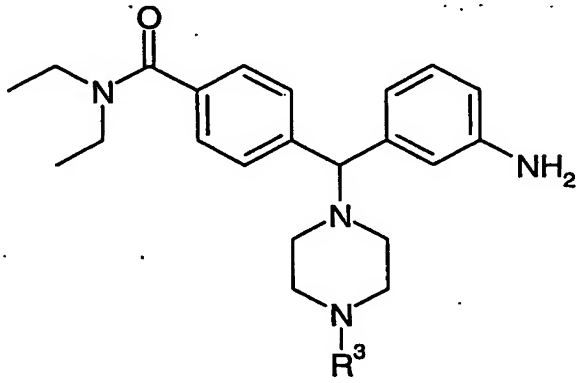
R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -CF_3, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.

20. A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,



IX

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R^8-Y-X or R^8-Y-O-Y-R^8 to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

X is halogen;

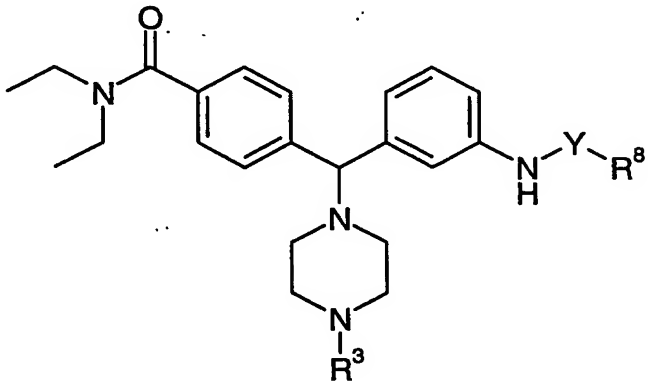
Y is selected from –C(=O)- and –$S(=O)_2$-;

R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl,

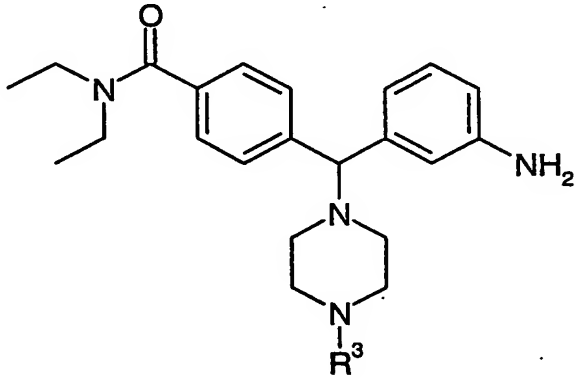
and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, -NO_2, -CF_3, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.

21. A process for preparing a compound of formula IX,



IX

comprising: reacting a compound of formula VIII,



VIII

with R^8-Z to form the compound of formula IX:

wherein

Z is selected from –NCO and -NCS;

Y is selected from –C(=O)NH- and –C(=S)NH-;

R^8 is selected from C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl; wherein said C_{3-6}alkyl, C_{6-10}aryl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl, C_{6-10}aryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-6}heteroaryl-C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-10}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-10}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, halogen, -CF_3, -OH, C_{1-3}alkoxy, phenoxy, and halogen; and

R^3 is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl, wherein said C_{1-6}alkyl-O-C(=O)-, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, and C_{3-6}cycloalkyl-C_{1-4}alkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogenated C_{1-6}alkyl, $-NO_2$, $-CF_3$, C_{1-6}alkoxy and halogen.